(b) The MOU on banking cooperation provides that the two countries shall consider favourably the opening of representative office by banks from the other country and strengthen correspondent banking arrangements. The MOU on simplification of visa procedures provides that the two countries would issue multiple entry visas valid for three years to holders of diplomatic and official passports working in diplomatic and consular missions in the two countries.

Indo-Saudi joint Economic Commission Meeting

2230. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the Indo-Saudi Joint Economic Commission meeting held in Riyadh recently and its impact on Indo-Saudi bilateral relations;

(b) whether the Indian delegation interacted with the top Saudi leaders during the visit and, if so, the political import of the talks on the Kashmir issue held with them particularly the role likely to be played by OIC countries, whose guiding spirit happened to be Saudi Arabia, where the headquarters of the 51-Member Islamic Conference are located; and

(c) if so, how far it was able to convince the Saudi Government of the Indian stand to resolve the dispute by mutual talks in pursuance of the Simla Agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) During the fourth session of the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission held in Riyadh on December 3-4, 1994, the two sides held in-depth discussions on bilateral economic issues and took steps to further develop their economic relationship. The overall impact of the session on bilateral relations is likely to be positive.

(b) and (c) The leader of the Indian delegation held talks with several Saudi leaders and appropriately conveyed to them India's views on the Kashmir issue.

Development of agro-based industries in Maharashtra

2231. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal/scheme for the development of agro-based industries in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating their location and the provision made for employment of rural youth and the total amount of investment including the foreign investment if any; and

(c) the present stage of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Since liberalisation, till November, 1994, 409 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda, involving an investment of Rs. 8712 crores, and employment of 67428 persons, have been filed for setting up of food processing units in the state of Maharashtra. In addition 90 proposals have been approved for setting up of food processing units in Joint Venture/Foreign Collaboration/100% Export Oriented Unit etc.

(c) Out of the Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda filed, 26 units have already started commercial production. Out of the other approvals 3 projects have been started production in Maharashtra till 93-94 involving an investment of Rs. 102 crores and Foreign investment of Rs. 7.07 crores.

Contract labour system in Corporate Offices

2232. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether project work is still being undertaken under contract labour system in the Corporate Offices under his Ministry in various States;

(b) the details of these States where works are being executed through contractors and engaged on N.M.Rs and daily wages;

(c) the States where contract labour system has since been abolished;

(d) whether Government have any scheme to liberate the labourers from the contract system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Scheme for revival of sick deep sea fishing industry

2233. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any viable and practical scheme for revival of the sick deep-fishing industry will be formulated by Government;

(b) if so, the details of fresh initiative in this regard;